>

Title : Need to allocate adequate funds to facilitate early completion of gauge conversion work on Dindigul-Palani section in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN (DINDIGUL): The gauge conversion between Dindigul and Pollachi was started about two years back. Dindigul-Palani section is the most expected line. Palani is supposed to be the third abode of Lord Saravana. Devotees all over the world throng Palani throughout the year and this railway line is considered to be the cheapest mode of transport. The distance between Dindigul and Palani is 60 kilometers and the total project cost is Rs. 270 crores. In the last Railway Budget, a meagre sum of Rs. 30 crores was allocatted and this year only

Rs. 60 crores has been earmarked. If the project is delayed, the cost will naturally escalate. Taking into consideration the importance of this Dindigul-Palani stretch, I urge upon the Railway Minister to allocate adequate funds so that this project could be completed as announced in the Budget for the year 2010-11.